



IDLE LOCAL BOARD.

R E P O R T S

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1893.

I D L E :

W. J. VINT, PRINTER, TOWN LANE.



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REPORTS

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IDLE:

W. J. VINT, PRINTER, TOWN LANE.

The Chairman and Members of the Idle Local Board.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present to you my Report on the health of the Idle Urban District for the year ending December 31st, 1893.

The Births have numbered 201, (105 males and 96 females,) giving a rate of 28.03 per 1000, which is about the average for the last 10 years.

The number of Deaths during the year has amounted to 140, (67 males and 73 females,) which is equal to 19.66 per 1000, a rather higher rate than we have experienced recently.

The Deaths from Zymotic Diseases have reached the large total of 32, being made up as follows:—15 from Diarrhæa, 6 from Typhoid Fever (3 occurring in the Fever Hospital,) 5 from Whooping Cough, 4 from Measles, and 2 from Diphtheria. The Zymotic death rate equals 4.52 per 1000 per annum.

The number of cases brought to my knowledge under the Infectious Disease Notification Act has been 99; 52 being Typhoid, 28 Scarlatina, 10 Small Pox, 5 Erysipelas, 3 Diphtheria, and 1 Cholera.

From these figures it will be seen that we have suffered more severely than usual during 1893 from diseases of the preventable class.

Foremost in the list stands Diarrhoea with 15 deaths to its credit, all of its victims but 3 being children under the age of 5.

Doubtless the extremely hot summer was the main factor in the production of this excessive mortality. But were there not other causes? Though we are not thoroughly acquainted with all the agencies tending to induce Infantile Diarrhoea, there is good reason to believe that none are so potent as an insanitary environment. Where houses are crowded together in courts and alleys, where ventilation is neglected and dirt abounds, especially when augmented by more than doubtful drinking water and defective drains, there will certainly be found a high mortality from Diarrhoea, and I am afraid we must admit that some places in Idle, notably Moorfield place, Hampton place and Highdale terrace will answer pretty well to the above description.

Concerning Scarlatina, which was very prevalent at the beginning of the year, subsided during summer, and is again slowly spreading, a full account will be found in my last Annual Report, and I do not think it necessary to add anything thereto, the conditions being similar in most respects.

For the first time during the last 12 years Small Pox has appeared among us, a not unexpected event, seeing that a severe Epidemic has been raging for some time in Bradford. Three of the cases were I believe contracted by convalescents from Scarlatina at the Fever Hospital, the infection being conveyed from Small Pox patients in the adjoining block. Another case the origin of which I was unable to trace, occurred at Springfield, unfortunately just at the time that the Hospital was closed for cleaning. The patient had to be left at home for a

week before removal, during which time he managed to infect 3 or 4 other people in the vicinity in spite of the strictest quarantine. In two of the instances I think that the contagion passed through the partition wall between the infected house and the next adjacent one, large cracks being afterwards found in the brick and plaster through which volumes of sulphurous acid passed when the house was fumigated, thus demonstrating a path by which the germs could gain access to the people attacked, and showing another (and to me a new) danger from jerry-built houses.

Four of the ten cases were in un-vaccinated persons, and each one had the disease severely, the other six were mild cases. There were no deaths. In addition to the foregoing diseases, Diphtheria in a serious form also showed itself late in December.

The outbreak was limited to one house, but out of three children attacked, two died. Grave sanitary defects were afterwards discovered in the house in which they lived, a large sewer practically ventilating into their rooms, the odour therefrom being very marked. The above instance, in view of the fact that no known source of contagion existed, would seem to point in the direction of the drain origin of Diphtheria, in spite of the discredit at present attaching to that hypothesis in certain quarters.

During the month of September a solitary case of Cholera occurred. The diagnosis was confirmed by Bacteriological Investigation conducted by Dr. SIMS WOODHEAD. It was not fatal, and its origin could not be traced in any way. It happened about a week or two before the Low Moor outbreak, and apparently forms one of those inexplicable sporadic cases which were dotted over the northern half of the map of England.

During the autumn a severe Epidemic of Typhoid Fever broke out in the district, but as a special report on the subject was sent in by me at the beginning of December, I will only briefly recapitulate the salient facts of the outbreak. Between September 1st and December 31st 52 cases were notified, and 6 deaths occurred. The area chiefly affected was the upper part of the town near the Old Chapel. In 40 of the cases a direct connection with the water of the local wells could be clearly made out, and in some of the others the evidence against it was more or less complete.

On December 12th the Town Pump and Town Well both of which, though of great local repute, were known to be contaminated by sewage, were closed by order of the Board, and the epidemic forthwith subsided.

The Calverley Joint Hospital has been largely used by us during the year, 60 cases in all being admitted from Idle, comprising 10 of Small Pox, 27 of Scarlatina, and 23 of Typhoid. Its usefulness has been demonstrated by the way in which the Small Pox case that could not be removed for a week after the diagnosis was clear, infected 4 others in the immediate neighbourhood; and also by the fact that of the Typhoids which were kept at home several were followed afterwards by other cases in the same house, in 2 instances 2, and in another 3 members of the family being subsequently attacked by the disease.

Influenza was again epidemic in Idle during November and December, but the type was distinctly milder than in previous outbreaks. There were no deaths.

There has been no case of lead poisoning from drinking water in the district throughout the last twelve months.

With regard to the Sanitary Work done during the year, I think we may say that a very fair amount has been satisfactorily carried out. In the first place the largest section of the sewerage works has been completed, and is now ready for property owners to connect their drains. The Thackley portion, owing to an alteration in the plans of the Shipley Local Board with whom a joint scheme had been arranged, has necessarily been postponed, but will, I understand, be proceeded with as soon as possible. Seeing that November 29th was the first day on which connections were allowed to be made with the new sewers, and that between this date and the end of the year the drains of over 40 houses have been joined thereto, I do not think we can be accused of having wasted much time thus far, and I venture to express the hope that the rest of this important work may be done as speedily and as well. The new drains have been constructed in accordance with the regulations (enclosed) drawn up by the Board September 4th, 1893.

I am glad to be able to report the adoption of the new regulations (enclosed) under Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milk Shops Order (1885) which will come into force this year, also of the Model Bye Laws of the Local Government Board with slight modifications. The latter have not yet been confirmed at Whitehall, but that is a detail. With these Bye Laws, in addition to the Notification Act, the Infectious Disease Prevention Act, and the Public Health Amendment Act, 1890, you have legal artillery sufficiently powerful to demolish any sanitary obstructionist of the vested interest type however obstinate or litigious he may be. It only remains with you, gentlemen, to use those powers wisely and well.

I am sorry to hear that it has been decided to continue the present system of scavenging by the aid of farmer-contractors for another year. It would be much better, if slightly more costly, for the Board to undertake the work themselves, and execute it by means of their own officials, over whom they would have greater control; I am also of opinion that a small Destructor would be a better way of disposing of cinders and other refuse, than the present system of tipping the same into old quarries, as many complaints have been made to me of the undoubted nuisance now caused by the heaps of decomposing rubbish.

In my last year's report I touched upon the insanitary condition of the privies, &c., connected with the schools and mills in Idle. I am glad to say that I understand the School Board has decided to remedy the defects in the existing closets; I hope a similar result will shortly be brought about in the mills, though I am afraid some pressure will first have to be exerted by you upon the owners. A water closet with an automatic flushing apparatus is the only arrangement likely to work satisfactorily under the conditions which obtain in workshops. There should of course be separate accommodation for the sexes.

During the year it has again and again been borne in upon me, that the common gully trap if neglected becomes an intolerable nuisance; a large quantity of decomposing filth is apt to collect at the bottom of the miniature cess-pool, and exhale a most disagreeable stench when stirred up, as it constantly is, by the water falling into it. I would therefore urge the Board to encourage the use of the self cleansing form of trap in all new works, and to send a man round at least once every 3 months to clean out all the old pattern ones.

I was pleased to hear that the Board had decided to compel all owners to furnish "Town's Water" to their houses, and I sincerely hope that this decree will not be allowed to remain a dead letter, so that the 300 or 400 houses still without a satisfactory supply may before the end of the present year be all connected to the Bradford mains.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours very truly,

R. HONEYBURNE, M.D., M.R.C.S.

M.O.H. for Idle.

Feb. 17th, 1894.

LOCAL BOARD OFFICES,

Idle, January 20th, 1894.

To the Medical Officer of Health.

Sir,

I beg to present to you my Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1893, showing the action taken, and the amount of work done during the year, in abatement of nuisances, &c., under the Public Health Act, 1875.

During the year 390 nuisances have been abated, 270 by preliminary notices, letters and personal arrangements; 116 after legal notices have been served, in two cases the Board have taken proceedings under the 36th section of the Public Health Act, 1875, to compel owners of property to provide proper and sufficient privy accommodation for their cottages. Legal proceedings have also been taken before the West Riding Magistrates to compel Mr. Austin Dibb, the owner and occupier of a slaughter house, &c., in Walter street, to abate a nuisance on his premises arising from the foul condition of the privies and open midden attached to the same, and also pigs so kept as to be a nuisance. In this case the magistrates made an order for the abatement of the nuisances complained of, and the defendant to pay the costs of the proceedings.

*Summary of Nuisances dealt with by Preliminary
Notice, Letters and Personal Arrangements.*

Filthy and unwholesome premises cleansed and whitewashed	31
Defective drains repaired, cleansed, &c.	22
Premises thoroughly re-drained	29
House drains, &c. connected to public sewers ..	24
Bath, lavatory, and sink waste pipes trapped and disconnected	36
Drains trapped and ventilated	34
Rainfall pipes disconnected	35
Foul water closets re-constructed	4
Defective trough spoutings taken down and replaced with new	4
Defective yards repaved	1
Defective fall pipes repaired	10
Privies and ashpits repaired	14
Foul privies reconstructed on the dry ash principle	3
Accumulations of manure removed	23
Total	<u>270</u>

Summary of Nuisances dealt with by Legal Notices.

Filthy and unwholesome premises cleansed and whitewashed	1
Defective drains cleansed, repaired, &c.	7
Premises throughly redrained	6
House drains connected to public sewers	20
Bath, lavatory and sink waste pipes trapped and disconnected	15
Drains trapped and ventilated	14
Rainfall pipes disconnected	18

Privies and ashpits repaired	...	..	...	5
Foul privies reconstructed on the dry ash principle				28
Areas provided to cellar dwellings		..	...	1
Foul water closets reconstructed	...	...	...	1
Total	...			<u>116</u>

CORRESPONDENCE.

Number of Legal Notices	...	...	...	52
„ Preliminary Notices		...	...	21
„ Letters	...	..	...	142
Total	...			<u>215</u>

INSPECTIONS.

The following are a list of regular and systematical inspections made during the year.

Houses inspected	...	...	..	...	425
Inspections of works in progress		...	...		1920
„ Cowsheds and Dairies		..	..		89
„ Slaughterhouses	...	...	...		116
„ Bakehouses	...	...	..		6
„ Common lodging houses	..	...			18
Total	...				<u>2566</u>

SCAVENGING.

During the year 260 notices have been served upon the contractors to cleanse the privies and ashpits in the district. I have regularly inspected the same in order to keep them in a satisfactory condition.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

During the year one additional slaughter house license has been granted to Mr. J. Horne, to slaughter on his premises situated in Butt lane. There are now 13 licensed slaughter houses in the district.

DISINFECTION.

The disinfection of all dwelling houses, articles of wearing apparel, bedding, &c., is carried out by Mr. Wilson, the hospital curator. During the year 63 houses have been disinfected, and 2620 articles of wearing apparel, bedding, &c. In dwelling houses where cases of small pox have occurred, the paper has been stripped from the walls, and the rooms thoroughly cleansed, limewashed, and disinfected at the Board's expence.

HOUSE DRAIN CONNECTIONS.

The first connection to the new main sewers was made on the 29th day of November ; since that date to the end of the year 44 houses have been connected. In each case the house drains have been relaid throughout, and in accordance with the Model Bye Laws of the Local Government Board.

I am,

Yours obediently,

W. NESFIELD,

*Cert. Sanit. Inst. of Great Britain,
Sanitary Inspector.*

